

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Richard Romer, Kristina McConnell, Elisse Barnes, Kenneth Flemmer, Donald Hague, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie and Roy Chavera, Chris Bolton

Guests Present: Chris Burt, Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhem, LeYaffe-Stark, Eugene Gooden, Mark Pharaoh, Mara Parker, Craig Wilson, Vikki Garcia, Mensah Adjogah, Theo Rudasingwa, Clarence Snuggs, Margaret Poore, Evelyn Soler-Hamilton, Tom Mannuelle, Len Newman, Margie Goergen-Rood

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Linda Cooper

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

Montgomery County Police: Cpt. William Montgomery introduced himself as the new 3rd District Commander replacing Marcus Jones, who was appointed as the new Assistant Chief of the Investigative Services Bureau. Commander Jones gave a brief presentation on current crime statistics and then addressed questions regarding police force staffing needs for the MCPD 3rd District.

Community Comments: Guests and members of the community introduced themselves and a few made comments on issues including need for additional staffing for Police, public safety and crime prevention.

Approval of the April 4, 2018 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the April 4, 2018 summary. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation by Special Guests: A presentation was made by Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board, which provided a brief overview of the following projects, some of which were previously supported by the ECCAB and East County community:

- Washington Adventist Hospital - currently under construction;
- Willow Manor at Fairland, an affordable and market rate senior rental housing complex to be constructed on the surface parking lot of the East County Regional Services Center;
- Briggs Chaney Auto Park – construction of a DARCARS Lexus maintenance center;
- FDA Expansion, which will include 18,000 employees by 2035, is nearing completion of the Master Plan review and the draft Environmental Impact Statement;
- Viva White Oak – conceptual plan approved; preliminary plan to be filed in the next few weeks;

- Hillandale Gateway - sketch plan approved, allows for 500 residential units, including 15 percent MPDUs, 24,500 square feet of retail floor area, related public open space and recreation amenities;
- Route 198 in Burtonsville – waiting on action from the State Highway Administration;
- Hillandale Park – \$5.7million budget, under design, construction during 2020-2022;
- Pinecrest Local Park – out for construction bids;
- Columbia Local Park - \$700,000 budget to convert tennis courts to alternative use;
- Northwest Branch Trail – now open to mountain bikes; and,
- Fairland Recreational Park – mountain bike skills park is under construction.

Questions were posed to and addressed by Mr. Anderson concerning the following topics:

- Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Impact of Viva White Oak on local affordable housing;
- Use of Federal Opportunity Zone designation;
- Status of Cherry Hill and Burtonsville Shopping Centers; and,
- FDA complex connectivity with New Hampshire Avenue.

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates: Peter Myo Khin reported that the PED Committee was given a presentation on East County analytics and commented on the need for the data to be more dynamic. The Quality of Life Committee did not meet in April.

Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh confirmed the appointment of Jerold Samet, Christopher Bolton and Kristina McConnell to the AD Hoc (new member screening) Committee. Jewru also notified the meeting attendees of the upcoming White Oak Community Day event planned for June 2, 2018.

Montgomery County Council Report: Mara Parker discussed the status of the County budget process and the need to focus on sufficient funds for fire & life safety and youth development.

New Business: Fisseha Adugna requested the Board arrange for a tour of the FDA.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.